

Rabbi's Column

Same-Sex Marriage and Gay Pride

June is Pride month, and I'm feeling pretty proud of over 200 of my Reform rabbinic colleagues who have personally committed themselves to support marriage rights for same-gender couples. I wish I could extend that feeling to the entire Reform rabbinate, but regrettably, there is less cause for pride in that regard.



Rabbi Jane Litman

Several years ago, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the rabbinic organization of the Reform Movement, voted to support civil marriage rights for same-gender couples. However, the CCAR stopped short of endorsing religious officiation at the marriage ceremonies. This is a bit of a Catch-22 since currently most civic officials do not perform these rituals. It is also somewhat odd (to say the least) that an organization of Jewish religious leaders decided, by implication, to send Jews to secular officials for a ceremony which Jewish tradition understands as deeply spiritual. It is hard to imagine the CCAR endorsing a resolution that requires mixed-gender Jewish couples be married without rabbinic officiation.

Since its vote to support civil mar-

riage rights, the CCAR has been studying the matter of rabbinic officiation. The last two national conventions have included presentations on the issue, and last year's convention featured a set of small group discussions convened to encourage dialogue. Two standing committees of the CCAR, the Responsa Committee (generally a conservative group) and the Human Sexuality Committee (generally a liberal group), took the topic under consideration with plans to report back to the plenum this year.

The Responsa Committee jumped the gun, and managed to produce its report in time for it to be published in the CCAR Journal (at full length and in the front of the journal as opposed to the usual place near the end) months prior

Continued on page 10

Diversity Dialogue II: Couples and Faith

The Adult Education Committee presents the second in its series of internal diversity dialogues intended to help Sha'ar Zahav members learn about each other in an open and honest forum. The first panel on men at Sha'ar Zahav was well attended by over 20 people who enjoyed the conversation around being a man at CSZ. The second panel discussion will be between single-faith and mixed-faith couples and is sure to provoke as interesting a discussion as the first. The panelists and the audience will grapple with questions such as how religion affects our partnerships, what it is like to be in an interfaith/single-faith relationship at Sha'ar Zahav and what stereotypes we hold of certain relationships. The panel will take place on June 14 at 7 pm at Notre Dame Plaza, 347 Dolores Street. Sha'ar Zahav folks, single or coupled, of all faiths, ages, sexual orientations and genders are encouraged to come learn about members in our community. Call Sue Bojdak, Adult Education chair, at 510/465-0806, if you have any questions.

Service Exchange with St. Matthew's

Sha'ar Zahav will host members of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church at our regular 8:15 pm Shabbat evening service on Friday, June 5, and have the opportunity to hear a sermon from Pastor Bombosch. Then CSZ members are invited to St. Matthew's Sabbath Service on Sunday morning, June 7 at 10:30 am, at which Rabbi Litman will deliver the sermon. Don't miss these excellent interfaith and community building opportunities!

CSZ Interim Space Information

Contacting us: Our telephone, fax and e-mail remain the same.

Telephone: (415) 861-6932

Fax: (415) 861-6081

E-mail: shaarzahav@igc.apc.org

Website: www.shaarzahav.org

Writing us: Please send all roster updates, newsletter submissions, dues payments, donations and other materials to our new home. *Use this address for writing to us only.*

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
290 Dolores Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Visiting us: Rabbi Litman and our office staff are sharing space with the staff of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th Street, catty-corner from our new building. Our drop-in hours are limited. Please call us before dropping by.

Worship services: All Shabbat services, except our monthly East Bay service, are being held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Healing services are at Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California Street.

Meetings: Va'ad meetings remain open to all members, and are at 345 Church Street. (Church Street Gardens). For the location of committee meetings, contact the chair of the committee.

Fiction Connection

The Fiction Connection, Sha'ar Zahav's own book group, will meet June 17 at 7:30 pm. The book we'll be discussing is Stephen McCauley's *Object of My Affection*. This funny novel, just released as a movie, is about George, who was kicked out by his lover and now lives with the terminally disordered Nina. For more information about the book group, contact Bill Goldstein at 510/793-4283.

Open Letter to ARZA Director Rabbi Ammi Hirsch

The following is an open letter by Rabbi Litman and Diana Buchbinder in response to a strongly worded memorandum from ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America) Director Rabbi Ammi Hirsch to all Reform rabbis urging them to table or vote against a proposed CCAR resolution supporting rabbinic officiation at same-gender marriage ceremonies.

Dear Rabbi Ammi Hirsch and Board of ARZA,

We were very distressed by the recent ARZA mailing containing Rabbi Hirsch's memorandum urging Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's rabbi to vote to table, or if necessary vote against, a proposed resolution before the CCAR to support rabbinical officiation of same-gender marriage. We question many aspects of this memorandum including: the appropriateness of ARZA member dues being used in this way; ARZA interference in matters of the CCAR; the political nature of the memo; the extreme rhetoric of the memo; and the substance of the arguments contained in it.

At this year's UAHF biennial in Dallas, a resolution was offered urging CCAR rabbis to conduct mixed-faith marriages. We did not support that resolution, without regard to its content, because we found it inappropriate for the Union to be interfering in the conscientious determinations of our Reform rabbis. We are dismayed that ARZA did not follow the UAHF's wise position in this matter. It is not proper for different organizations of the Reform Movement to become parties to the internal decisions of other such organizations. We particularly support the right of our Reform rabbis to engage in decisions of conscience free from the political pressures featured in Rabbi Hirsch's memo.

Not only is Rabbi Hirsch's memo inappropriate, but it also betrays the moral mission of ARZA, which is to promote tolerance, equality, and progressive Judaism. A number of our Israeli Reform rabbis support same-gender marriage. If Rabbi Hirsch sees it differently, he is entitled to his personal opinion, but is his opinion the same as ARZA's policy? Were other Reform rabbis in Israel consulted? If Rabbi Hirsch thinks that si-

lence is the best stance in relation to this issue, he was free to remain silent. Instead, he has joined the forces of intolerance, inequity, and regression, and undermined our less politically motivated religious leaders. It is clear that Rabbi Hirsch's memo generated the very publicity he decries.

In addition, we are disturbed by the inflammatory rhetoric of Rabbi Hirsch's memo. His characterization of rabbinical officiation at same-gender weddings as a "threat" to progress, as "the risk of long-lasting upheaval," as a "blow" from which progressive Judaism in Israel "shall not soon recover," seems overblown and incendiary. He sounds like he believes the "worst propaganda of the ultra-Orthodox" which he supposedly deplores. The Reform Movement has taken controversial stands before, why is this one unique? In the United States, gay rights has become a "wedge-issue" of the radical right, designed to appeal to emotion and fear. It seems to us that the same effort is being made in Israel. How can ARZA's executive director condone, indeed support, this kind of divisive and cynical political manipulation?

Finally, we cannot accept either the logic or the reasoning behind the substance of Rabbi Hirsch's memo. Rabbi Hirsch maintains that he is making a political evaluation. Others, of equal political sophistication, do not agree. But, ultimately, this is an issue of moral right. Few moral stands are politically expedient in their day. Courageous moral leaders look beyond expediency to support justice. We had hoped that ARZA's executive director would be such a moral leader. We are deeply disappointed.

We will continue to support the New Israel Fund and ARZA, which promote progressive values in our Jewish homeland. We will continue to distribute ARZA's membership materials: however, this situation has created a crisis of conscience for us. We will not refrain from expressing our profound misgivings in relation to Rabbi Hirsch's memo. Perhaps there were political costs for Rabbi Hirsch in making no comment in regard to his colleagues who affirm the right of marriage for same-gender

couples, but there are costs on the other side as well. Rabbi Hirsch is concerned about the alienation of secular Israelis from Reform Judaism. We are concerned about the alienation of practicing caring Reform Jews from Israel. Rabbi Hirsch's memo is certainly not going to assist us in that cause. Was this memo worth it? We think not.

We believe that many, if not most, ARZA members would not approve of their dues being used in this fashion. If the memo was a personal one from Rabbi Hirsch to his rabbinical colleagues, it should not have been included in the ARZA mailing; Rabbi Hirsch should reimburse ARZA for the cost of the mailing and issue a statement to all ARZA members clarifying that this memo reflected his personal opinion and not the position of ARZA. If it was a professional communication stemming from a vote of the Board, or other official ARZA stance, then it should have said as much. The presentation of the memo left this unclear. If indeed, this is the formal stance of ARZA, we would like to know more about the Board deliberations which led to this memo. There are different points of view on the issue of same gender marriage and interference with CCAR process, not only among the ARZA membership, but also within the leadership of ARZA. We request that ARZA leaders who do not agree with this position (if indeed it represents the official position of ARZA) receive the right of reply—on exactly the same terms—as soon as is possible. We hope that before Rabbi Hirsch takes another such rash and overwrought action that he consults his colleagues in Israel and in this country. That is how to truly build consensus.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Jane Rachel Litman

Diana Buchbinder, President

CSZ ARZA representative Ron Lezell supports the position taken by ARZA Executive Director, Rabbi Ammi Hirsch. Ron was offered an opportunity to present ARZA's position in this issue, but was unable to write an article so close to deadline. His piece will be in the July Gaily Forward.

Thoughts on Israel at 50

—Ellie Cohen

It was Shabbat morning in a Tel Aviv suburb last November. I was driving with my in-laws and other relatives packed into a small rental car for a weekend outing when we realized we had forgotten something. I immediately pulled off at the next exit.

Suddenly I felt as if we had entered a Hollywood movie set. No cars were moving ... just large groups of people, old and young, walking through the streets. People dressed only in black and white, men draped with tallitot, black hats everywhere. Most women had long sleeved shirts and long skirts despite the morning's heat.

I had driven the whole family right into the heart of B'nei Brak, an ultra Orthodox neighborhood with its own internal laws—such as, no driving on Shabbat. They glared at us with a hatred I have seldom experienced in my entire (perhaps naive) Jewish American life. A little boy came so close to the driver's side window, yelling angrily as he stared deep into my eyes. I felt as though we were from another planet. I felt no connection to these people who also called themselves "Jews." I shocked myself with my own feelings of anger and resentment toward them. My heart raced as I realized what I had done and I drove as quickly as possible to return to "normal" life outside the imaginary gates of this all too real 20th century shtetl.

Israel at 50. It brings up so many different political and emotional responses depending upon where you sit ... and where your family has sat. A small part of my partner Greta's family survived Mussolini's occupation of Greece and then the Holocaust only to be forced out in the mid-'60s by a coup. They left their native land with less than 24 hours notice. After three days of travel by boat, they found themselves in the only country in the world that would welcome them with open arms and tremendous support to start a new life — Israel. Their story is just one of tens of thousands. Today a Jew anywhere in the world can receive a paid ticket to Israel and be given free housing, education and job training.

Israel at 50. The dream of peace with the Palestinians that was formalized in the fall of 1993 with the signing of the Oslo Accords almost seems vanished.

In fact, a recent survey by Tel Aviv University reports that more than 80% of those polled see the division between the ultra Orthodox and secular Israelis as the number one issue facing the country in the years ahead. How could it be that this tiny country — that is threatened with regular suicide bombings from Arab extremists, that continues forcing its military might almost daily on its neighbors, and that continues to add new names to the list of over 20,000 soldiers killed since the founding of the country — ranks relations among Jews higher than relations with Arabs? I believe the answer lies in the growing dominance of religious extremists.

Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud government has acted again and again in the interest of their own party's political survival. Its failure to move the Oslo Accords forward, for example, is tied to the fact that small religious parties hold the balance of power in the Knesset. Israel's ultra Orthodox continue to "have a monopoly over marriage, divorce and burial and are exempt from mandatory army service," as a recent article by Gwen Ackerman for the Associated Press points out. "The success of religious leaders in altering the country's status quo has prompted a ... call for greater separation of religion and state."

The ultra Orthodox have even monopolized the term "religious"—obscuring the fact that there is a growing move-

Continued on page 9

Trail Midrash: Studying Torah in the Trees

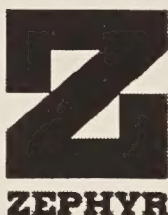
Do you think about going to Saturday morning Torah Study, but are drawn outside by the sun instead? The Adult Education Committee and La'atid has the perfect new way for you and any other curious Sha'ar Zahavniks to study Torah. Join Jacob Rothman, CSZ member and hiker extraordinaire, each month for a morning of hiking and Torah discussion. This month celebrate Shabbat Shelach, on June 20, by joining Jacob and co-leader Doug Rodgers for a relaxing morning of nature, Torah and camaraderie. Participants are encouraged to bring poems, readings, personal writing or other material so the group can create its own Midrash on the morning's Torah portion. The four-mile hike will be to Cataract Falls on Mount Tamalpais. Carpoolers are to meet at 9:30 am at Mishkan Dolores, 16th and Dolores.

HIV + Support Group

CSZ has an ongoing drop-in support group for members living with HIV/AIDS, and their families and partners each month, in addition to quarterly Shabbat dinners. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 13th at 3 pm: drop-in support group led by Rabbi Litman at 256 States Street (at Castro) in San Francisco. If you would like more information, please call the synagogue office.



*Thanks to member support,
I have contributed over
\$4,000 to Mishkan Dolores.
Thank you!*



Deborah Udin
ZEPHYR Real Estate
(415) 552-9500 ext. 122
email: deudin@aol.com

Year End Thoughts

This marks the last column of my first year as president. In the process of drafting my report for the congregational meeting, I had occasion to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year. Yesterday I went to the new members potluck. In between I have had occasion to speak to members, be at services, spend time in our temporary home at St. Matthew's, and have a discussion with various friends about their congregations. I've also spent more time considering the meaning of commitment since becoming president.



Diana Buchbinder

Now I can safely admit that I was nervous about succeeding David Stein. So much was going on with the building, the move, and all the other changes we are experiencing, that I wondered how everything would get done. This last year has been beyond anything I could have imagined, both for us as a community and for me personally. In talking with friends from out of town, I heard about how things are at their synagogue: internal political struggles, difficulties in getting members involved, and concerns over lagging membership. Their story was particularly compelling because, although they live in a large community, theirs is the only synagogue in town. If they wish to belong to a synagogue, they have little choice. I thought about the commitment and involvement of our members, in particular the significant number of members involved in lay leadership, and how we take for granted that we are special. I thought about how much love and caring have gone into making Sha'ar Zahav a home for all of us. We come from different life experiences, and hope to be fulfilled by our membership in different ways. But we have, through the foresight of those who have gone before me, cultivated our tradition of value-based decision making. We embrace difference and use it as a catalyst.

We are thriving. We have babies born at the rate of two per month, we are well within reach of our second target for building pledges, we are offering

more programs and opportunities for member involvement than ever before, we have a dynamic rabbi, have a volunteer involvement that is the envy of the community, and are considered a model synagogue. I want to again thank every one of you who has given your resources to make our community unique. In my *drash* last June, as I prepared to begin my term, I reflected upon our custom of honoring positions of service. It really is an honor for me to serve as president and to be surrounded by so many dedicated people. In the last year I have come to a deeper understanding of what honor means, and look forward to the next year with enthusiasm and anticipation.

We received the following letter from the Westside Community Mental Health Center, Inc.

To All Sukkot in April Volunteers:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Westside Community Mental Health Center, Inc., I'd like to thank you for your participation in Westside's Sukkot in April/Christmas in April Renovation Project.

In an era of growing demands for services and declining resources, Westside's mission of providing mental health, substance abuse and HIV related services to the poorest and marginalized of residents becomes increasingly difficult to achieve. As we face our current challenges of welfare reform, managed care and diminishing public funding, your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Your support of this project has provided a much-needed facelift to our Crisis & Outpatient Clinic that our clients and staff can take pride in. The efforts of your volunteers will also assist our staff in providing needed services that will enable the people who we serve, to be an active participant and contributor to their communities.

Again, thank you!

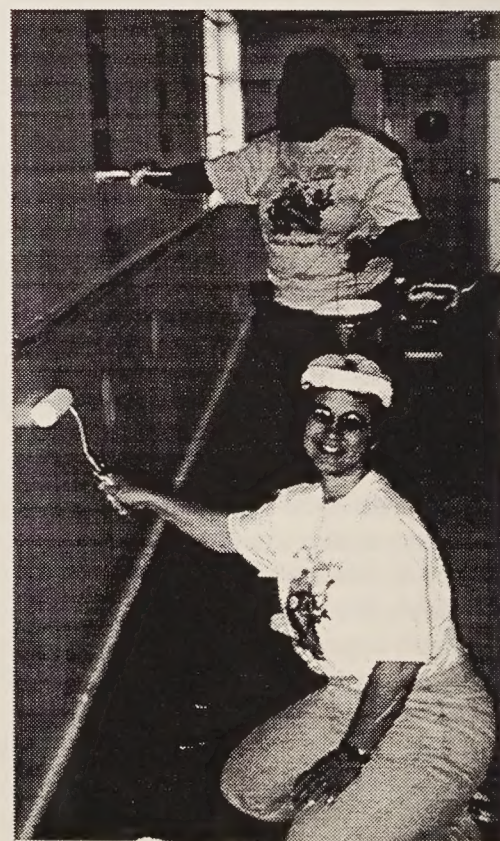
Sincerely,

Bea Stephens, LCSW
Executive Director

Sukkot in April

On Sunday, April 26, Sukkot in April 1998, members of Sha'ar Zahav, Old Lesbians for Social Change, employees of Levi Strauss and Co. and employees of the Westside Community Mental Health Center joined together to refurbish the Center. On Saturday, April 25, Christmas in April 1998, employees of AAA and Levi Strauss and Co. had begun the work of revitalizing the Center's interior. Nearly 50 CSZ members arrived early Sunday morning and worked all day to finish the project of gardening, painting and recarpeting the existing Center and helping to get the apartment building next door ready to open as a drop in activity center for clients. It was a wonderful and productive day of service and community building.

The day could not have happened as smoothly as it did without the dedicated work of CSZ's Sukkot in April captains: Laura Lowe, Prudence Carter and Beth Sousa. A special thanks goes to all three of them and to the generous local businesses that made contributions to help feed our volunteers during their hard day of work: Noah's Bagels on Sloat Avenue, Peet's Coffee on Battery Street, Posh Bagel, Truly Mediterranean, Andronico's Market and Max's Restaurants. *Todah rabah* to all the CSZ members who volunteered and made Sukkot in April 1998 such a success.



Painterly rabbi. Photo by Sarita Groisser.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July–August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 861-6932. Email: ShaarZahav@igc.apc.org. To request permission to reprint material, contact Robin Leonard (841-0262 or robinl@nolo.com).

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

Chair and Editorial Coordinator: Robin Leonard

Layout Coordinator: Rose Katz

Editing/Proofreading/Layout: Brian Jersky, Batya Kalis, Laura Lowe, Sarah Nathe, Jacob Rothman, Karen Schiller, Sam Thal, Tory Weiser

Photography: Michael Bettinger

Advertising: Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)

Typesetting: David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

Printing: Genesis Printing & Graphics

Distribution: Mail It Right

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

June 1998/Volume 21, Issue 10.



Steve and Tom hard at work on Sukkot in April. Photo by Sarita Groisser.

CSZ Celebrates Pride in Our New Neighborhood

On Simchat Torah we marched our Torahs through the Castro down to our new Mishkan in the Mission. Our "coming out" of the Castro to the heart of San Francisco's birth place has made us more visible gay and lesbian Jews. Our name and our logo, the Jewish star with a lambda at its center, are displayed prominently on our new building where our ark to hold our Torahs protrudes out from the center of the building. We celebrate our history and our new visibility with pride this month at various Gay Pride events.

San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

CSZ is proud to be co-sponsoring the presentation of two Jewish films in the festival. On Sunday, June 21 at 1:30 pm at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street, Sha'ar Zahav co-sponsors "Fresh Blood" and "The Return of Sarah's Daughters." These two shorts present creative ways of combining seemingly contradictory identities. In "Fresh Blood," the filmmaker examines the complexities and pleasures of her Iraqi-Jewish heritage. Returning to Israel, the land of her birth, she is overcome by the implications of her mixed identity, her lesbian desires and the loss of her mother tongue. She emerges with a new understanding of the power of memory and myth and the significance of blood relations.

The filmmaker of "The Return of Sarah's Daughters" also uses her personal experiences as a Jewish woman in creating a documentary that allow us to enter the world of Orthodox Judaism through the lives of various women. One woman we meet, Rus, has found tremendous fulfillment and a sense of community in Orthodoxy. Myriam on the other hand, left Orthodoxy when she felt rejected for affirming her lesbian identity.

Call the Festival Info line at 703-8663 to order your tickets.

June 26: Shabbat Freedom

Shabbat Freedom begins with Tot Shabbat at 6:30 pm when families can meet together for a brown-bag dinner. At 7:15 pm, Rabbi Litman and Annie Winters will lead the Tot Shabbat Service which will focus on the theme of the "Diversity of Our Families."

Then at 8:15 pm, we will hold a festive Kabbalat Shabbat service celebrating our pride in being lesbian, gay,

bisexual and transgender Jews. Following the service, La'atid will help the congregation continue the celebration by making the Oneg into a Pride Party complete with music and dancing.

June 28: San Francisco Pride Parade

Sha'ar Zahav members, their families and friends are invited to march behind the Sha'ar Zahav banner in the 1998 Pride Parade, the theme of which is "Shakin' it Up." This year the parade route is shorter (from second and Market to the Civic Center) and starts earlier which means we should not have to wait as long to march. Watch for details of CSZ's starting time and location. Don't miss your chance to show all of San Francisco and the Bay Area how proud you are to be Jewish and Queer and part of CSZ!

June 27: Dor Rishon Torah Study Brunch

Dor Rishon/First Generation will study Torah and enjoy brunch together on Saturday, June 27, at 10 am, at the home of Jerry Rosenstein, 3341 Jackson Street, San Francisco.

Celebrate Israel at 50 at "Cafe Gay"

What do Gay Pride and Israeli Independence Day have in common? Sha'ar Zahav will show the Bay Area on June 7 at the *Israel at 50 Festival* in Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park from noon - 6 pm. Sha'ar Zahav's booth at the festival will be "Cafe Gay" which in Hebrew literally means Cafe Pride. At our booth, set up like a Tel Aviv beach cafe, we will bring the voices of gay Israelis to the celebration by reading both ancient and contemporary homoerotic Israeli poetry. Call Renée in the office if you have questions or would like to help out.

Choosing Children

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services invites interested lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender individuals/couples to its Choosing Children series. All classes are on Thursday evenings, 6:30-9 pm. The first class, Choosing to Parent, was May 21, but you can join late. The remaining classes are June 4 (Legal Issues), June 18 (Creative Conception) and July 9 (Adoption Option). Call 565-7672, ext 350 for more information or to sign up.

New Friday Night Prayerbook

Yes, it's true, the New Prayerbook Committee is hard at work revising and amending our beloved Friday night prayerbook. While we love our siddur, it has not been revised in many years, and needs some correcting and updating. We would also like to expand it somewhat, in order to offer a greater variety of readings and approaches. As you no doubt know if you attend services regularly, our service leaders have many different approaches and emphases, and we value that diversity. So, rather than select one single approach for our services, we would like our prayerbook to enable our congregation to experience a whole spectrum of different approaches, from the "traditional" and more conservative, to the meditative, environmental, social justice or other focuses.

The committee spent its first few months identifying some overall principles to which we need to pay attention, and working to build consensus on those principles. They include gender neutral or gender inclusive English, feminism, tikkun olam, gay/lesbian/bi/trans content, accessibility to everyone, preserving liturgical diversity, expanding our liturgical spectrum in multiple directions and including more options (more traditional, more "renewal," etc.), dealing with the tension between universality and "chosenness," exploring alternative Hebrew, identifying authors and sources and respecting copyright.

As we continue to work on the principles, we have also formed subcommittees to work on the various portions of the service (for example, the Amidah, the Kabbalat Shabbat or first portion of the service, etc.), to discuss and develop changes or additions. We would like to see some additional variety, particularly in the English readings. In addition, we hope to add many songs in a separate song section in the back, to expand our repertoire.

We are also now turning our attention to the complicated question of alternative Hebrew. On the one hand, the traditional Hebrew of our prayers makes us feel connected through space and to Jews all over the world and throughout history. Often we are much less tolerant of changes in the Hebrew than we are of adding creative and modern English interpretative readings. On the other

hand, some of the Hebrew we recite is actually very troubling from a modern perspective. In addition, while we are uniformly gender-neutral in our English readings, the Hebrew is of course the male-focused Hebrew of traditional Judaism. In addition, the Hebrew has various sources—Torah, Talmud, scholars of the middle ages, Israeli poets—and we have different feelings about changing the words from each of those sources. How comfortable do we feel referring to God by a word other than Adonai? But then again, how comfortable do we feel using a masculine word to describe God? And what does that say about who we are, and who is welcome amongst us?

We also face this question in other areas. For example, the Reform movement for some time has changed the words of the Amidah from "[God] who gives life to the dead" to "who gives life to all" because the Reform movement is uncomfortable with the notion that God will raise the dead. This is a very complex question, and we will be grappling with it at some length. In gen-

Continued on page 8

BART Buddies: A New Way to Get To Services

Do you get tired of schlepping over the Bay Bridge on Friday evenings to get to services? Does the thought of looking for parking in the Mission make you stay home instead of coming to services? Are you someone who wishes you didn't need to drive to services, but don't feel quite safe taking BART alone? Fret no more, CSZ is ready to help!

Our new building and temporary home at St. Matthew's is conveniently located near the 16th Street BART station as well as a number of MUNI stops. In order for all members to be able to take advantage of our new convenient location we are instituting a new buddy system. Please call Renée in the CSZ office to volunteer to be an escort to the 16th Street BART station after services or to be matched up with a BART buddy or a carpool.

Please note: It is especially important for members to find alternative ways of getting to services on June 26 for Shabbat Freedom. Parking in the Mission/Castro area is very difficult on Pride weekend.

Litigation
Estate Planning
Personal Injury
Business Law
Probate
Real Estate
Employment
discrimination

Legal
Help

Goldstein, Gellman, Melbostad, Gibson & Harris, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

100 Van Ness
21st Floor
San Francisco
California
94102



Call David Gellman
415-621-5600

May Children's Education Board Minutes

David Shneer, our Educator, gave a brief report on the Kadimah visit to the Daniel's Story Holocaust exhibit. The point that struck the parents most was the absence of discussion of gays and lesbians in the exhibit material. Many families wrote notes to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., which produced the exhibit, expressing their anger and sadness at this hurtful silence.

The CEB had a final discussion on the implementation and policy around the new midweek class, which was officially presented to the Kadimah families on May 16. The policy for midweek classes will be the same as for Saturday classes. Regular and prompt attendance is essential to the success of our program. Kadimah students at all levels may not miss more than 25% of all classes. If a family knows that it will have persistent conflicts on either Saturdays or the new midweek Wednes-

day classes, parents should contact the Educator at least one month before the beginning of school. The Educator, teacher, parent and child will meet to create a plan so that the child can meet the educational expectations.

The maximum 25% absence policy for all classes is new this year, but reflects the expectations parents, teachers and community have of our students so that they don't fall too far behind the class.

Kadimah will also be changing the class names. We are switching the current Nitzanim, Chalutzim, Chaverim, Rishonim and B'nai Mitzvah class titles to Gan (Kindergarten), Kitah Alef, Bet, Gimel, etc. This was done for several reasons:

- to give the school a sense of progress (moving forward) in its classes
- to help parents know the order and progress of Kadimah classes
- to give non-parents in the congregation a sense of which children are do-

ing what activities, and

- to maintain and strengthen the Hebrew component of the school by giving the classes simple and identifiable names that would help parents and children identify with basic Hebrew vocabulary and aleph-abet.

We discussed where money for the Gift of Israel fund would come from if the congregation decided to go ahead with the plan. The Gift of Israel is a three-way sponsorship of a teenager's trip to Israel. The payment plan takes about eight years, with the congregation putting up \$50 per child per year, the family \$150, and the Bureau of Jewish Education, \$125. By the time the child is a teenager, there would be enough money for a trip to Israel. The Board also discussed details for the May 9 Kadimah Open House and the Parents' Meeting on May 16.

Next CEB meeting: June 1 at 7 pm. Call the Educator for details.

Classifieds

HOUSING NEEDED: 2 people from Washington, DC will be in SF from Aug 1-8 looking for an apartment. (We are moving there in September.) Need a place to stay for the week. I am a member of Congregation Bet Mishpachah in DC and a friend of Scott Mezistrano (former CSZ member). We are willing to house-sit, water plants, take care of pets, etc. Work (202) 434-3624 or home (202) 332-7288—David Rachleff and Keith Laskey.

GOING AWAY? Between August 10th and September 10th we are available to house-sit and to take loving care of your animals and plants at no charge. References available within the community of Sha'ar Zahav. Call collect (561) 533-0464 or FAX (561) 582-9261 between 7 am and 8 pm PST, ASAP.

TUTORING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN: I have years of experience as a professional tutor and classroom teacher. If your child could benefit from extra help over the summer, call Sarita Groisser at (415) 641-8413. All ages, academic subjects and learning styles welcome.

KAUAI TROPICAL GARDEN RETREAT: Enchanting setting, perfect for nurturing, healing, romancing. Royal Drive Cottages. Bob Levine/Sandy Meyers Ph/fax, 808/822-2321.

CLUTTER BUSTERS: Afraid to open closets? Packing to move? Pesach spring cleaning? I help minimize and reorganize your home or office. References. Bill: 487-8959.

LEARN SPANISH with the best teacher! Contact Rosalinda del Moral at 487-1631, ext. 2. Llámame!

ALL THINGS MACINTOSH: Troubleshooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance. Software support, tutoring and more. Roslyn, 510/526-1209.

Looking for Davening Mavens

Do you know what page we're on, even if the leader doesn't say? Aware when to sit down and rise (if able)? Able to sing most of the songs? Then you're a davening maven! Rabbi Jane extends her personal request that you occasionally assist a neophyte at services. When you come in, just let the greeter know that you are a "maven;" you will receive a special badge. Then answer questions. It's that easy! A friendly smile doesn't hurt either. It's a mitzvah. Thanks to new member Marjorie Bennett for the great idea.

Roving Readers

Nearly a dozen roving readers are bringing literature, music, film and conversation to home-bound Jews in the Bay Area. The program is seed-funded by the Friends of the Jewish Community Library. Its volunteers are trained by the Jewish Community Library and Ruach Ami: The Bay Area Jewish Healing Center. The Bureau of Jewish Education's Jewish Community Library is currently matching volunteers with clients for two visits each month for a minimum of six months. For more information, to volunteer or to become a client, call Susan Jacob (751-6983, ext. 126).

Noah Jacob Locke Nacamulli

Noah Jacob Locke Nacamulli will be called to the Torah to become Bar Mitzvah on June 20, 1998. Noah is a freshman at Abraham Lincoln High School in the Sunset District of San Francisco where his favorite subject is World Literature. Noah enjoys reading and writing science fiction and hopes to become a teacher and a novelist one day. Noah has a strong love of animals and currently has three cats, an aquarium of fish and a baby snake.

Noah and his family have been members of CSZ since Noah's 5th birthday. Although he spent a few years in Hawaii with his family, Noah only wanted to become Bar Mitzvah with his Sha'ar Zahav family here in San Francisco. He is very much looking forward to becoming Bar Mitzvah and says that it means he will be "more of a Jew, more spiritual."

The entire Sha'ar Zahav family wishes *mazel tov* to Noah, his parents Lorraine and Bob Nacamulli, and his younger brother Aaron.



Mikvah and Beyond

—Tory Weiser

Editor's Note: This June issue of the JGF went to press on May 15.

My time has almost arrived. On May 21 I go to the mikvah, and on May 29 I will be welcomed into the covenant at Sha'ar Zahav. I am almost beside myself with excitement, with a little apprehension thrown in. I want to make sure that I savor every minute of my conversion, from the Bet Din to the oneg after the May 29 service. This will be one of the most important moments in my life.

I'm proud of my efforts during the past year. I have worked hard, read a tremendous amount of material and learned much. One of the things I love most about Judaism is the wealth of knowledge it encompasses. I feel I have just scratched the surface. The more books I read, the more I discover that I want to read. I will make this a lifelong pursuit.

When I started my conversion journey, most of my interest revolved around Jewish history because I identified with it. Since then, my interests have broadened considerably. They now include Jewish mysticism, prayer, meditation, Hebrew, ritual, holidays and tikkun olam. At the beginning, I felt that

I had an affinity with Jewish people. As my knowledge has developed, I slowly began to feel Jewish. Now that feeling is complete.

As my Hebrew proficiency has grown, so has my sense of belonging. In my article on Hebrew, I referred to myself as being dangerous once I learned 50 words. Well, I was a little optimistic. I've learned more than 50 words, but I fluctuate between feeling dangerous and feeling totally inept. I can follow along, mostly, in the Siddur, and I seldom resort to the transliteration. I have even begun to translate some of the words I read. I find it too taxing to do both, but it will all gel one of these days.

These articles have helped a lot in finding my Jewish identity. They have allowed me to explore my struggles and my triumphs and use you as a sounding board. I have received a lot of positive feedback, and commiseration, about my journey. I am grateful for this forum. I may continue to write articles occasionally, as I find new struggles and more things to ponder.

I would like to thank several people who have had a profound impact on my conversion studies. Rabbi Jane graciously allowed me much time with her for questions, book discussions and emotional support. She has again and again directed me to more books about my particular interests. Her warmth,

encouragement and compassion have been most important to me.

Alan Ferrara has been a dear friend through it all. Early on he loaned me several books that answered many of my beginning questions about Judaism. We had many, many afternoon teas talking about things Jewish. He has, at all times, offered me his love, his friendship, his knowledge and his support.

And finally, Robin Leonard. Robin is my partner and my mainstay. Without her help I would have been lost many times. She answered my questions and questioned me about my faith and beliefs. We've become closer through my choosing Judaism, a faith she embraces with all her being. We've had hotly contested discussions over our different beliefs. She has been supportive of all my tangents regardless of her own thoughts or beliefs. Robin has taught me so much about her Judaism. I respect her more than anyone I know.

Oh, and by the way—an update. Remember my pork dilemma? I failed miserably in my attempt to abstain from eating pork. Within days after Pesach, I had a ham sandwich. (At least I didn't have a ham and matzah sandwich during Pesach, like someone I know.) I found that refraining from eating pork did not provide me with the discipline and connection to God I had hoped it would. It just made me unhappy.

Prayerbook

Continued from page 6

eral, the thought is not to eliminate any "historical" Hebrew but perhaps to supplement it in some way, offering an alternative approach as well.

The committee would very much appreciate your feedback. Do you have some thoughts on the question of alternative Hebrew? Is there a poem you've always thought would be an excellent reading? Do you wish that we did, or didn't sing a particular prayer? We'd like to hear from you. Please contact committee chairs Dev Felder Noily (753-5093; saradev@sirius.com) or Rena Fisher (510/658-8713; renarokhl@aol.com) with any comments. We will also be organizing several opportunities to meet with members of the committee in person just before Friday night services, to offer any comments, suggestions or concerns you might have. Please stay tuned!

Leave a Legacy

This year, CSZ joins with hundreds of other religious and charitable organizations to launch a multi-year, Bay Area-wide initiative with a single mission—to encourage people to make wills and to use those wills to leave gifts to their favorite charities. The joint venture is entitled *Leave A Legacy*.

As hard as it is to believe, two out of every three adults have not written a will. In many of these situations, the government will decide who will get their property and non-relatives (including close friends and even lovers of long-standing) will be left out.

The CSZ version of *Leave A Legacy* will be directed by our Bequests and Donations Committee, chaired by Rich-

ard Inlander. Mike Zimmerman will be the point person for the project. Please get in touch with Mike immediately if you want:

- brochures and other information about *Leave A Legacy* for yourself, friends, neighbors, clients or customers
- a list of reasons why you ought to have a will
- sample language for leaving a bequest to CSZ in your will
- a list of CSZ members who work professionally in the fields of wills, trusts and estate planning, or
- to place your name on the list of such professionals.

Mike may be contacted at 252-7672 or mzimmerman@sfbay.org.

Israel

Continued from page 3

ment in Israel to break Orthodox control over many aspects of civil life and to establish alternative religious expression along the lines of the Conservative and Reform movements here in the United States. Most Israelis I know are "secular," yet celebrate the holidays and are deeply steeped in Jewish history and thought.

Of course, the U.S. at age 50 had legalized slavery and only white male landowners had the right to vote. Was it democratic? Is it today? The struggle for democracy and freedom takes a long time as the American experience continues to demonstrate.

Israel at 50. In 1948 it had a population of 600,000. Today it has reached six million, with about one-fifth of those coming recently from the former Soviet Union and another million being Arab Israelis. It has a strong economy and has become a thriving world center for high technology as well as arts and creativity.

It seems to me that Israel's future depends on how it deals with its own incredible cultural diversity — internal and external. If it denies this strength of diversity, thereby allowing the extremists — Jewish and non-Jewish — to dominate political and cultural life, I fear for its future and the future of Jews around the world. If it can learn to celebrate diversity — the future seems optimistic and bright.

I pray for a day when Jews will never look at other Jews, or our semitic Arab relatives, with hate and disdain. I pray that the next 50 years allows Israel to remain a center and safe haven for Jews from around the world. And as we pray every Friday evening, "May they and we soon know a time of complete healing, a healing of the body and a healing of the spirit and let us say: Amen."

Israeli Woman

—Greta Miskatel

I was born a daughter
so I would not get killed in the wars.

I was born a daughter
so I would never leave home.

I was born a daughter
to nurture hope and truth.

I was born a daughter
to love a woman that was born a daughter.

I was born a daughter
to give birth to children not to kill them in wars.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Richard Krieg and Dave Medlin |
| 2 | Beth Ross and Laura Trupin |
| 2 | Lillian Schaechner and Elaine Weisman |
| 7 | Stephanie Godt and Ellen Novogrodsky |
| 9 | Joe Hample and Reineres Susbilla |
| 10 | Steven Diller and Ira Johnson |
| 10 | Nina Jo Smith and Ruth Mahaney |
| 10 | Frank Yellin and Mark Schowalter |
| 13 | Dan Bellm and Yoel Kahn |
| 16 | Elisabeth Ochs and Lea Salem |
| 18 | Rachel Wahba and Judy Dlugacz |
| 19 | Dana Vinicoff and Sarah Peterson |
| 21 | Debbi Jacobs-Levine and Joel Levine |
| 21 | Lolma Olson and Beth Reed |
| 21 | Shelley Samuels and Robin Dubner |
| 25 | Shelley R. Adler and Nancy Showen |
| 25 | Suzanne Bojdak and Debra Yates |
| 29 | Tova Green and Fran Peavey |
| 29 | Steve Lowinger and Dave Dean |

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Summer in Israel Youth Program

Mazel tov to CSZ's Cody Fine, who joins more than 140 teens on the Bureau of Jewish Education's Summer in Israel Youth Program. Cody and the others will tour Israel for five weeks, meet with Israeli teens and study ancient and modern history. Highlights will include a home-hospitality weekend with Israeli youth, a visit to a Druze village, rappelling and an archaeological dig. Cody, have a wonderful trip. Please bring some pictures back for the *Forward*, and maybe you'll want to write an article, too?

Condolences

We extend our condolences to members who have suffered recent losses:

Lillian Schaechner, on the death of her mother, Agnes K. Schaechner.

Richard Weiner, on the death of his father, Hanoach Weiner.

Lou Hirschmann, on the death of his grandmother, Goldie Weiss Dworkin.

Jeff Sherman, on the death of his grandmother, Reva Sherman.

Joe Hample, on the death of his great-uncle, Milton Friedman.

Rabbi News

Rabbi Litman will attend the Central Conference of American Rabbi's Annual Meeting from June 21 to 25, at which the issue of same-gender weddings will be a central issue. Rabbi Litman is presenting at the CCAR conference on inclusivity, diversity and our congregation. Rabbi Litman has joined the clergy committee of the Freedom to Marry Coalition. The coalition is planning an interfaith service in September supporting same-gender marriage.

For All Things Judaic



Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

GIFT SHOP

Open Friday Nights 7:30-8:05 pm
or by appointment

AFIKOMEN

JEWISH BOOKS

GIFTS AND ARTS



**Come see
what you've been missing!**

3042 CLAREMONT AVENUE, BERKELEY (510)655-1977

Continued from page 1

to the convention. The Responsa Committee's majority statement (nine out of eleven) is a painful collection of tired homophobic arguments. I need not rehearse them here during Pride month. You have read them all ad nauseam. Even the minority opinion is only a modest endorsement of our human rights to marry whom we choose, without regard to sexual orientation/preference.

It was widely circulated that the Human Sexuality Committee would bring a resolution before the CCAR plenum, at the national convention, advocating rabbinic officiation at same-gender "unions." Normally, in a democratic organization, such a resolution would be brought to the floor, debated, and voted upon. Yet, in this particular case, this was not to be. The forces opposed to gay marriage launched an all-out campaign to prevent the proposed resolution from ever reaching the floor of the CCAR.

I am no innocent in the realm of gay rights politics, but seldom have I seen such an overwrought and underhanded crusade. According to the rhetoric of the opposition, gay marriage will be the

end of Reform Judaism, not only in the United States, but throughout the world! Our very own representative to the UAHC, Mike Rankin, a leader in our movement, was personally approached by the head of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, and asked to support suppressing the resolution. The Executive Director of ARZA sent a memo to all Reform rabbis (in an ARZA mailing, no less!) pleading with us to table the proposed resolution (see the open letter in response on page 2 from CSZ President Diana Buchbinder and me). CCAR members have urged a secret ballot, and have organized closed e-mail lists composed of rabbis opposed to patrilineal descent, mixed-faith marriage, and same-gender marriage. They are ashamed to put their names to their bigotry. I am deeply and profoundly pained and disappointed to see this kind of behavior among rabbis.

It appears that the Human Sexuality

Committee is unable to withstand this onslaught of ill will. Reports indicate that the resolution will not be presented at this year's convention. However, my courageous colleagues Denise Eger, Karen Bender, and our own Eric Weiss, have not rolled over. They initiated a petition in support of same-gender marriage. In less than a week, over 200 Reform rabbis had signed on. We expect double that many by June 21, the opening day of the convention.

Over 200 of our rabbis are not ashamed and not hiding. They are proud to support human rights. And I am proud to be among them. We will take a stand; if the resolution doesn't make the floor this year, it will next year or the year after that. In the meantime, we refuse to be silenced and shoved back into the closet. We will be at the convention with banners and buttons, stickers and statements, affirming the rite and right of marriage.

On June 26, Pride Shabbat, I will have just returned from the annual CCAR convention. I will speak on what transpires: how we will challenge ignorance and bigotry with education and Pride.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Emily Freeman

Sara McLanahan & Brian Edlin

Tony Harris

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat in recent weeks:

- 5/1 CSZ, in honor of Israel's 50th birthday and the contributions our Israeli members have made to our congregation
- 5/8 Co-sponsored by the Sha'ar Zahav Membership Committee in honor of our new members, and Beth Ross, Laura Trupin and Maia Ross Trupin in honor of the naming of Elias William
- 5/15 Doris Weiner and Esther Scott, in honor of Alisa Weiner and Alison Scott's kiddushin
- 5/29 Robin Leonard and Alan Ferrara, in honor of Tory Weiser's entrance into the covenant

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CULLUM & SENA

Divorce, Custody & Support
Relationship Agreements
Wills & Living Trusts
Small Business
Auto Accidents
Discrimination

HUMAN RIGHTS
"The Cornerstone of
Our Practice"

Free Initial Consultation

45 POLK STREET SECOND FLOOR SF CA 94102
PHONE 415 . 863 . 5300 FAX 415 . 863 . 8596

Save the Dates!

Well, it's probably more like "mark your calendar." If you like to plan ahead, be sure to note the dates for the High Holidays this year. Details will be in the July/August issue.

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, September 20

Rosh Hashanah 1st day, Monday, September 21

Rosh Hashanah 2nd day, Tuesday, September 22

Kol Nidre, Tuesday, September 29

Yom Kippur, Wednesday, September 30

H
Y
C

HAVURAH YOUTH CENTER

After-school Enrichment Program for Grades K-5

- Jewish programming • Arts enrichment and recreational activities • Warm and friendly environment
- Yellow school bus transportation from most SFUSD schools
- Financial aid available • All families welcome!

(415) 292-1250

Jewish Community Center of SF
3200 California St. (at Presidio)

Contributions

Adult Education Fund

Eli Weinstein, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer's becoming Bat Mitzvah and in honor of George Mintzer's 75th birthday.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Phyllis and George Mintzer, in memory of Ann Schmier.

Children's Education Fund

Batya Kalis and Miriam Trentman, in honor of the birth of Gabriel Jordan Singer.

Leyna Bernstein, to commemorate the yahrzeit of Sanford Bernstein.

General Fund

Barbara Cymrot and Dafna Wu, in memory of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu.

Mark Troy, in memory of Ephraim Troy.

Maxine Epstein, in memory of Bernyce Epstein.

Nancy Epstein, in memory of Erwin Epstein.

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in honor of James Carlson's entrance into the Covenant.

Steve Weiner, in memory of Benjamin Weiner.

Suzanne Loeb, in memory of David Loeb.

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in honor of Daphne Stuart's entrance into the Covenant.

Mishkan Dolores Fund

Louis Hirschmann, in honor of Jerome H. Hirschmann.

Benjamin Bank and Brian Jersky.

Drew Parker.

Eli Weinstein, in memory of Sol and Frema Weinstein.

Steve Elman and Tom Holt, in honor of Dev Felder Noily's acceptance at Hebrew Union College.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Nanci Stern.

Jeff Forman and Paul Nemrow, in honor of Jeff Rubin's 40th birthday.

Daphne Stuart and Lyssa Friedman, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer's becoming Bat Mitzvah.

Jan Medina, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer's becoming Bat Mitzvah.

Allan Giannini.

Phyllis and George Mintzer, in honor of Rabbi Litman, Rabbi Kahn and Diana Buchbinder.

Lynn Biegelson, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer's becoming Bat Mitzvah.

Rick Luttman and Chuna McIntyre.

Deborah Udin, in appreciation of Allan Gold and in memory of Erma Newman.

Donations in honor of

Eli Weinstein's 75th birthday

Phyllis and George Mintzer.

Allan Berenstein.

Steve Elman and Tom Holt.

Calvin and Patricia Zippin.

Batya Kalis and Miriam Trentman.

Gerald Hyman.

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman.

Michael and Suzanne Weinstein.

Phyllis Weinstein.

Rabbi Litman's Discretionary Fund

Gail Dekker, in honor of Rabbi Kahn.

Alan Ferrara and Allan Gold, in honor of Robin Leonard's appointment to the Board of the *Northern California Jewish Bulletin*.

Alan Ferrara, in honor of Tory Weiser's entrance into the Covenant.

Special thanks to **Marjorie Bennett**, for her contribution in memory of her grandmother, Shayna Fayga, which will help underwrite next year's Jewish Women's Spiritual Retreat.

Naches

David Shneer, on passing his PhD oral examination in History/Jewish Literature at UC Berkeley.

Tory Weiser, on her entrance into the Covenant.

Alison Scott and Alisa Weiner, on their wedding.

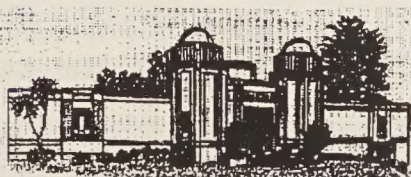
Jonathan Pannor and Michael Watenpugh, on their engagement to be married and on moving into their new home in Mill Valley.

Ilana Bernstein and Diane Desmond, on their new home.

Yeva Johnson and Michael Potter, on the birth of their son, Myer Jei Johnson-Potter.

Bon and Jhos Singer, on the birth of their son, Gabriel Singer.

Amy Clark, on her acceptance to the elementary teaching credential/Masters program at Mills college.



HILLS OF ETERNITY MEMORIAL PARK

Serving families of the Jewish faith since 1851

Designated section for members of
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

For information please call
Stephen E. Weiner
Director of Sales

415/756-3633

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

- 1 Donald Abrams
- 1 Cheryl Mann
- 2 Lisa Feldstein
- 2 Nina Wouk
- 3 Shoshana Jacobs-Levine
- 4 Hanya Barth
- 4 Ora Prochovnick
- 5 Rick Crane
- 5 Katye Gulley
- 6 Marsha Blachman
- 6 Sasha Cuttler
- 6 Nina Jacobs-Levine
- 8 Marianne Balin
- 8 Brian Besser
- 9 Barbara Becker
- 9 Laura Lowe
- 9 Glenn Shor
- 10 Claudia Bernard
- 10 Daniel Chesir
- 10 Rose Katz
- 10 Marna Stein
- 11 Timothy Rubin
- 11 Annie Winters
- 12 Susan Simpson
- 13 Troy Cascia
- 15 Zachary Shelton
- 15 Steven Wiesner
- 16 Christopher Hornby-Finch
- 16 Nancy Levin
- 16 Shayna Prochovnick
- 17 Adam Bellm Kahn
- 17 Pieter de Haan
- 18 Jason Gaber
- 18 Danny Givertz
- 18 Susan Lubeck
- 19 Isaac Chotiner-Whitebook
- 20 Susan Mizner
- 20 Larry Wexler
- 21 Leyna Bernstein
- 21 Eileen Levy
- 21 Richard Sinkoff
- 22 Sarita Groisser
- 22 Charles Rodgers
- 22 Margaret Rossoff
- 23 Deborah Agre
- 23 Louis Hirschmann
- 25 Dyan Dreisbach
- 25 Steve Weiner
- 26 Marc Lipschutz
- 26 Esta Soler
- 28 Lisa Katz
- 29 Emma Buchbinder
- 29 Eve Meyer

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

UAHC Online

CSZ is an active member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), the umbrella group for Reform synagogues in North America. The UAHC maintains a Website at <http://uahc.org>. There, you can find a number of different items, including:

- the Transcontinental Music Publications catalogue, showcasing songs to celebrate Israel's 50th birthday

- Program Bank Project, the Adult Jewish Growth Department's list and description of successful adult study programs

- V'shinantam and the Jewish Parent Page, containing book reviews, activity ideas, reviews of educational resources and other materials designed for family activities

- resolutions passed at the Dallas Biennial

- tips on creating and maintaining your synagogue's Website

- dates and details for the upcoming summer Kallot and other study opportunities, and

- Reform Judaism Magazine.

To "talk" to like-minded Reform Jews, consider joining any one of a number of e-mail discussion groups. Send the message **subscribe <group name> <your name>** to listproc@shamash.org and indicate which group you'd like to join:

- rjmag—Reform Judaism Magazine
- rjyouthworker—for parents, rabbis, professionals and others concerned about serving the youth of the Reform movement

- arza—a liberal discussion of what's happening in Israel

- kallah—discussions of alumni of the Kallah programs

- mail.liberal-judaism—topics about liberal Judaism

- l-torah—discussions of Torah from a liberal perspective, and

- temple-chat—a forum about synagogue life for members of UAHC congregations.

Members' Yahrzeits

2	Mark Feldman
8	Robert Nehemiah Mackey
9	Duff Kreitzberg
14	Mirtha Beal
17	Joe Zygielbaum
20	Bill Valentine

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Jane Litman

Officers:

President, Diana Buchbinder
(337-6319 or
threebuchs@sprynet.com)
First Vice President, David Gellman
Second Vice President, Susan
Tubbesing
Treasurer, Arthur Slepian
Recorder, Mark Bowers

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Michael Chertok
Ellie Cohen
Jeff Forman
Lyssa Friedman
Sara Haber
Joe Hample
Lisa Katz
Eileen Levy
Julie Moed

CSZ Staff:

Educator, David Shneer
Administrator, Lea Salem
Program Director, Renée Bauer
Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzer
Administrative Assistant, Amy Clark

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Sue Bojdak
Archives, open
ARZA contact, Ron Lezell
Baby Chavurah, Lisa Katz
Bequests and Donations, Richard
Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber
Bisexual Chavurah, Jim Frazin
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Ruth
Rainero
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dor Rishon, Joe Hample
Dues Liaison, Sara Haber
East Bay Services, Hilary Zaid
Endowment Fund, Merry Luskin
Environmental Action, Barak Gale and
Brian Besser

Finance, Arthur Slepian
Fine Arts, Robert Gutterman
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
La'atid, Geoff Benjamin
Leadership Development, Paul Cohen
Library, in formation
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Ami Zusman
Mishkan Dolores Overall, Tiela
Chalmers
Mishkan Dolores Fundraising,
Ellie Cohen and Lisa Katz
*Mishkan Dolores Architecture
and Design*, Alice Prussin
Newsletter, Robin Leonard
Past Presidents Council, Merry Luskin
Personnel, Susan Tubbesing
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Liaison, Allan Gold
Ritual, Lyssa Friedman
Social Action, in formation
Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah, Ilana
Bernstein
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WCGLJO Liaison, Neil Grungras
Women's Chavurah, open

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of the World Congress

of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am — check calendar for each month.

1 Monday 7 Sivan

- 6 pm, Healing service, Congregation Sherith Israel
- 7 pm, Children's Education Board

2 Tuesday 8 Sivan

- 12:30 pm, Queer Talmud Lunch, 582 Market St., 10th fl.
- 6:30 pm, Dues Committee

3 Wednesday 9 Sivan

- 7 pm, Architecture and Design Committee
- 7 pm, Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew class, 408 Urbano Dr.
- 7 pm, Newsletter editing

4 Thursday 10 Sivan

5 Friday 11 Sivan

- 7 pm, Early Kabbalat Shabbat service, led by Tiela Chalmers
- 8:10 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Naso, led by Rabbi Litman, Daniel Chesir and Benjie Achtenberg, sermon by Pastor Bombosch

6 Saturday 12 Sivan

- 2 pm, Adult B'nai Mitzvah class, 408 Urbano Dr.

7 Sunday 13 Sivan

- 10:30 am, Rabbi Litman delivers sermon at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
- Noon, Israel at 50 Celebration, Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park, CSZ booth, "Gay Cafe"

8 Monday 14 Sivan

- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting, 345 Church St.
- 7 pm, Newsletter layout and proofreading

9 Tuesday 15 Sivan

10 Wednesday 16 Sivan

- 7 pm, Advance Planning Committee

11 Thursday 17 Sivan

12 Friday 18 Sivan

- 7:15 pm, Niggun service, led by Nicole Bloom
- 8:14 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Be-Ha'alotkha, led by Nicole Bloom and Larry Wexler, sermon by Rabbi Litman

13 Saturday 19 Sivan

- 9 am, Torah Study, St. Matthew's
- 10 am, Shabbat service, led by Jonah Levy and Tiela Chalmers
- 2 pm, Adult B'nai Mitzvah class, 408 Urbano Dr.
- 3 pm, HIV + Group

14 Sunday 20 Sivan

- 7 pm, Diversity Dialogue, Couples and Faith, Notre Dame Plaza, 347 Dolores St.

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

15 Monday 21 Sivan

- 6 pm, Healing service, Congregation Sherith Israel
- 7 pm, Membership Committee

16 Tuesday 22 Sivan

- 12:30 pm, Queer Talmud Lunch, 582 Market St., 10th fl.

17 Wednesday 23 Sivan

- 7:30 pm, Fiction Connection; call Bill Goldstein (510/793-4283) for information

18 Thursday 24 Sivan

- 7 pm, Bikkur Cholim Committee

19 Friday 25 Sivan

- 8:15 pm, East Bay service
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Shelach, led by Mike Rankin and Brian Besser, sermon by Mike Rankin
- 8:16 pm, Candle lighting

20 Saturday 26 Sivan

- 10 am, Trail Midrash
- 10 am, Noah Nacamura Bar Mitzvah, led by Noah Nacamura, Rabbi Litman and Eileen Levy

21 Sunday 27 Sivan

- 1:30 pm, Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, CSZ co-sponsors "Return of Sarah's Daughters" and "Fresh Blood," Victoria Theater, 2961 16th St.

22 Monday 28 Sivan

23 Tuesday 29 Sivan

24 Wednesday 30 Sivan

25 Thursday 1 Tammuz

- 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee, Harvey Milk School Library

26 Friday 2 Tammuz

- 6:30 pm, Tot Shabbat brown-bag dinner
- 7:15 pm, Tot Shabbat Pride service, led by Rabbi Litman and Annie Winters
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Korach/Pride, led by Steve Weitz, sermon by Rabbi Litman, special dancing and music, oneg sponsored by La'atid
- 8:18 pm, Candle lighting

27 Saturday 3 Tammuz

- 10 am, Dor Rishon Torah Study Brunch, 3341 Jackson St.

28 Sunday 4 Tammuz

- 11 am, Gay Pride Parade, CSZ contingent meeting location TBA

29 Monday 5 Tammuz

30 Tuesday 6 Tammuz

East Bay Services

6/19 Location TBA; call Larry Wexler (510/523-6775) for information

JULY/AUGUST FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, JUNE 1

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, JUNE 1

Articles may be e-mailed to Robin Leonard at robinl@nolo.com. Otherwise, please submit your article on both a 3½-inch disk and hard copy on paper double spaced. Write "Attn. Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. No deadline extensions without advance permission of Robin Leonard (841-0262 or robinl@nolo.com).

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
290 DOLORES STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-2262

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 12623
SAN FRANCISCO, CA